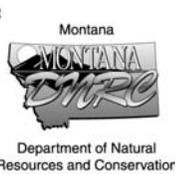


NEWS



Date: June 7, 2004

Contact: Lisa Osborn, 657-6200, ext. 224

Stage I Fire Restrictions Ordered on State and BLM lands in Stillwater County

Stage I fire restrictions will go into effect on state and Bureau of Land Management lands in Stillwater County beginning at 12:01 a.m. on June 9, 2004. Stage I restrictions are already in place on private lands in Stillwater County. The restrictions do not apply to Forest Service lands.

The public is asked to honor the restrictions to decrease the chance of human-caused fires and avoid resource and property damage. Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence may be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.

Under Stage 1, the following acts are prohibited:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site, or improved site.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Exemptions to these prohibitions are allowed for persons using a fire solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG; for a federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized law enforcement, rescue, or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty; or persons with a permit or written authorization allowing the otherwise prohibited act or omission. However, an exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

For more information, please contact the Bureau of Land Management at 406-896-5013; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at 406-247-4400; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 406-247-2940; or Stillwater County at 406-321-0204.

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